

**Notice of Availability of the
Draft Environmental Assessment for the Orbital/Sub-Orbital Program
and
Draft Finding of No Significant Impact**

The US Air Force (USAF) is proposing to develop a new family of launch vehicles using surplus Minuteman II and Peacekeeper Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) rocket motors (along with commercial upper stages) to support orbital launches of small and micro satellites into Low Earth Orbit, and sub-orbital-trajectory missions. The Orbital/Sub-Orbital Program (OSP) would provide low-cost, reliable launch services for Government-sponsored payloads using flight-proven hardware and software currently available, with a demonstrated success record. To satisfy various orbital inclination requirements, launch schedules, and other mission needs, spaceport locations on both East and West Coasts of the United States would be utilized. All launches would be conducted from an existing Government range and/or commercial spaceport located at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California; Kodiak Launch Complex, Alaska; Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida; and Wallops Flight Facility, Virginia.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and its implementing regulations, the USAF has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the OSP. Because only a few specific missions have been identified to date for the OSP, the EA takes a programmatic approach in assuming a maximum of five or six launches per year, over a 10-year period, beginning in 2005. All five or six annual launches could occur from just one of the four ranges, or be spread across the different ranges. At each launch site, existing facilities would be used, with limited facility modifications and construction required in most cases.

Based on this analysis, the USAF has determined that the proposed activities are not expected to result in any significant impacts to the environment. Beginning on November 3, 2005, the Draft EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be available to the public for a 30-day review period. Both documents are available over the Internet at <http://ax.losangeles.af.mil/axf> (under "announcements"), and at the locations on the attached list. **Comments on the Draft EA/Draft FONSI will be accepted through December 2, 2005.** Submit written comments to: SMC/AXFV, Attn: Leonard Aragon, 2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467, El Segundo, CA 90245-4659. Comments may also be submitted via facsimile at (310) 363-1503, or by e-mail at Leonard.Aragon@losangeles.af.mil.

Locations to View the Draft EA and Draft FONSI

Alaska

- Kodiak City Library, 319 Lower Mill Bay Road, Kodiak, AK 99615
- Z. J. Loussac Public Library, 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage, AK 99503

California

- Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9010
- Lompoc Public Library, 501 East North Avenue, Lompoc, CA 93436
- Santa Barbara Public Library, 40 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
- Santa Maria Public Library, 420 South Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93454

Florida

- Cape Canaveral Public Library, 201 Polk Avenue, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920
- 45 SW/PA (Public Affairs Office), 1201 Edward H. White II, Suite C129, Patrick Air Force Base, FL 32925-4500

Maryland

- Worcester County Library, 301 Market Street, Pocomoke City, MD 21851

Virginia

- Eastern Shore Public Library, 23610 Front Street, Accomac, VA 23301
- Island Library, 4077 Main Street, Chincoteague, VA 23336
- NASA Wallops Flight Facility Technical Library, Building E-105, Wallops Island, VA 23337